REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that this preliminary amendment be entered in the above-identified application.

The statement in the "Related Application" application has been amended to indicate that the present application is a divisional application of pending United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/822,630.

The application has also been amended on pages 1, 2, 14, and 15. These amendments are the same as submitted in the parent application (Serial Number 09/822,630) in an amendment filed on October 3, 2003.

Claims 1-16 have been canceled since they were prosecuted in the parent application (Serial Number 09/822,630).

Claims 17-27 are pending. Claims 17 and 24-27 have been amended. These amendments are similar to the amendments to the claims presented in the parent application (Serial Number 09/822,630) in an amendment filed on October 3, 2003.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in the Application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By:

Richard A. Kaba

Registration No. 30,562

Date: December 31, 2003

120 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1600 Chicago, Illinois 60603-4277 (312) 577-7000